

March 26, 1986

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The Most Reverend Pio Laghi
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio
Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008-3687

Your Excellency:

This is a tardy reply to your very kind letter of January 31, 1986
(Prot. No. 438/86/8).

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The reason for the delay is simply that my wife, Sheila, and I have been away for the winter and traveling, so that Father Hehir was unable, safely, to forward your letter until our recent return.

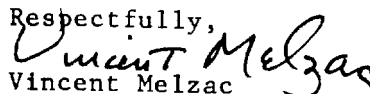
In the first instance, our entire family is most pleased with the Vatican's gracious acceptance of our gift.

As erstwhile Chief Executive Officer of a major national art museum, as well as being recognized as a significant donor to several important public collections, including the Smithsonian Institution, we are fully aware of proper museum acquisition policies and assure you that there are no restrictions whatsoever to our gift offer to the Vatican. However, there are a few important details which we would like to discuss with you prior to signing the required forms.

Would it be possible for your Excellency to grant us a half hour, at your convenience, sometime in the next two weeks? We remain in our apartment, for medical reasons only, until April 10th. Thereafter, we return to our farm

Your Excellency, Sheila and I would consider it a privilege to meet you.

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Respectfully,

Vincent Melzac

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